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great historical religions of the world, followed by a brief consideration of the religions of semi-civilized and savage races, gives the conclusion that man is by nature at once moral and religious, that an invincible tendency leads him to find a divine sanction for moral law, that he reaches moral more easily than religious truth, and that, while debased religions debase morals, "the religious sentiment itself, by its very nature, is the most powerful aid to morality."

These conclusions create a strong presumption in favor of that doctrine of the mutual relation of religion and morality, and of the dependence of morality upon religion, which is ably expounded and maintained against every form of independent morality. His ethics is teleological. The ground of right, and so of authority, is in the nature of God. It is an axiom of reason that rational action finds in its end its law; in its supreme end, therefore, its supreme law; but the supreme or absolute law is the moral law. Only in God, the infinite and absolute good, is found the absolute good for man. Man's nature can rest in nothing less. Hence the commands of God to men have authority, not as mere commands, but as commands of righteousness, to which conscience or the moral reason in man responds. Thus religion, which recognizes God as the supreme, furnishes the ultimate basis of morality. The connection exists, though not always perceived. The criticism of Kant, Mill, and Spencer is clear and searching.

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THE COVENANT OF SALT, as Based on the Significance and Symbolism of Salt in Primitive Thought. By H. CLAY TRUMBULL. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1899. Pp. x+184. \$1.50.

A "COVENANT OF SALT" is a rare biblical phrase which has engaged the attention of Dr. Trumbull in connection with his researches into primitive covenants already embodied in his two stimulating works *The Blood Covenant* and *The Threshold Covenant*. In the fifteen short chapters of this new book he has gathered an imposing mass of facts from all sides illustrative of the use and significance of salt in social customs and religious rites. It is a fascinating and illuminating study. To him salt appears to be symbolic of the deepest thoughts and most central relations of primitive life, and to have maintained this symbolic character in survivals in present custom. Salt and blood are identical

in their symbolism. They involve life and death; they are the solemnest pledges that the primitive man can assume. Such is the conclusion of the author, which is carried through with vigor and applied to explain nearly all instances which he brings forward. It may seem to some that little discrimination has been shown where there was need of some strict analysis. The preservative power of salt certainly has been more potent, as well as the seasoning element in it, than the author is willing to grant. As a collection of materials to which a wonderfully fertile principle of interpretation has been applied the book is of real value, even though one must sometimes be cautious in adopting the views advanced.

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A HISTORY OF EGYPT UNDER THE PTOLEMAIC DYNASTY. With numerous illustrations. By J. P. MAHAFFY. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1899. Pp. xiii + 256. \$2.25.

A HISTORY OF EGYPT UNDER ROMAN RULE. With numerous illustrations. By J. GRAFTON MILNE, M.A. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1898. Pp. xii + 262. \$2.25.

PROFESSOR MAHAFFY and Mr. Milne write under the above-named titles the fourth and fifth volumes of Professor Petrie's *History of Egypt*. It cannot be said that the general public is as much interested in these periods of Egyptian history as in the earlier Pharaonic ages. But this *History of Egypt* is not for the general public. It is a student's history, giving the facts obtained from the very latest discoveries and investigations, furnishing long lists of references to the original authorities, and not concerned about the speculative or literary aspects of the subject.

Yet these periods are not without their importance and living interest. Ptolemaic Egypt was the intellectual heir of Greece. Alexandria was the meeting place of the oriental and the occidental, the Jew, the Greek, and the Hindu. Roman Egypt produced the school of Clement and Origen, the first hermits and cenobites, and has been the hiding place of many important documents of Christian literature which have recently been uncovered and published to the world.

The Egypt of these epochs has recently been revealed to us in fuller and clearer outline by the wonderful discoveries of papyri in the Fayum and elsewhere. Mahaffy and Milne have made abundant use